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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,335	09/11/2003	Ikuo Makita	1538.1040	3760
21171	7590	10/04/2007	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP			LEMMA, SAMSON B	
SUITE 700			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.			2132	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/659,335	MAKITA, IKUO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Samson B. Lemma	2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The request filed July 23, 2007 for a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on patent application 10/659,335 is acceptable and an RCE has been established. Every Independent **claims 1, 5, 11-12, 14, 18 and 24** has been amended. **Claims 1-33** are pending/examined.

2. In the previous office action **claims 1-4 and 14-23** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However the amendment made to the respective claims overcome the rejection. Thus the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection set forth in the previous office action is withdrawn.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's remark/arguments filed on July 23, 2007 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground/s of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. **Claims 1-33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over **Bowe et al** (hereinafter referred as **Bowe**) (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0093678 A1) (filed on April 23, 2001) in view of Spain et al (hereinafter referred to as **Spain**) (U.S. Patent No. 7,058,811 B2) (filed on 10/31/2001)

Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. Applicant should consider the entire prior art as applicable as to the limitations of the claims. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner

7. **As per independent claims 1, 5, 11-12, 14, 18, 24 and 28 and dependent claims 29-33** **Bowe discloses an information processing method executed by a center system** [See at least Paragraph 0054, "a server-side digital signature system/method], said information processing method comprising:

receiving a first digital signature for specific data stored in said center system and a request to allow a first user to be allowed to read said stored specific data, from a terminal of a second user [See abstract and figure 3, paragraph 0060] (On abstract the following has been disclosed. "A digital signature system is provided on a server for use by remote clients, such as by using a browser. The server generates and maintains all of the users' keys used for producing a digital signature. A user sends a data object to the server, and the server generates a digital signature for the data object

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using the private key stored at the server. The server then sends the digital signature to the client. **A client can, at a later time, send the signature back to the server for verification.** Furthermore on paragraph 0060 and figure 3, the following has been disclosed/shown. "FIG. 3 shows a Verification Request and a Verification Response according to the present invention. Client 100 can later send the signed object 230 to the server 120 for verification. The server verifies the signature by obtaining the data object 210 and the hash from the first signature 225 from the signed object. **The server generates a second hash 310 using the data object and compares the hash from the first signature 225 with the second hash 310. If the signatures match, the signature is valid.** The server returns an indicator 320 showing the status of the signature, either valid or invalid.")

and ;

confirming if an authority to give said first user permission to read said stored specific data is granted to said second user by comparing the received first digital signature with a second digital signature, which is registered in a data storage unit so as to correspond to said stored specific data; [paragraph 0060 and figure 3] (On paragraph 0060, the following has been disclosed. "FIG. 3 shows a Verification Request and a Verification Response according to the present invention. Client 100 can later send the signed object 230 to the server 120 for verification. The server verifies the signature by obtaining the data object 210 and the hash from the first signature 225 from the signed object. The server generates a second hash 310 using the data object and compares the hash from the first signature 225 with the second hash 310. **If the signatures match, the signature is valid.** The server returns an indicator 320 showing the status of the signature, either valid or invalid.") and

Furthermore on figure 3, **Bowe discloses that** if first signature and said second signature are identical, sending a verification Response & indicator.

Bowe does not explicitly disclose

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- Confirming if an authority to give said first user permission to read data by comparing the received first digital signatures with second digital signature.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Spain discloses the following, which meets the above limitation,

"A digital signature generator is included to create a digital signature of the hardware address of the hardware element. A memory element stores the digital signature of the hardware element. A software program is included to compare the digital signature of the hardware element to a known value. **If the digital signature of the hardware element matches the known value, the user may be granted read and write access to all memory locations within the memory element**, including a location in which the hardware address is stored." [See at least the abstract]
It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the features of comparing digital signatures before granting access for read/write as per teachings **Spain** into the method as taught by **Bowe** in order to **verify the authenticity of the request before granting access to read/write. [See Spain, lines 58-59]**

8. **As per claims 2, 15 and 25 the combination of Bowe and Spain discloses an information processing method as applied to claims above. Furthermore Bowe discloses the method, wherein said performing comprises transmitting hash data, which is registered in said data storage unit so as to correspond to said specific data, and which represents that an authority to read said specific data is granted to said first user, to a terminal of said first user.** [paragraph 0060 and figure 3] (On paragraph 0060, the following has been disclosed. "FIG. 3 shows a Verification Request and a Verification Response according to the present invention. Client 100 can later send the signed object 230 to the server 120 for verification. The server verifies the signature by obtaining the data object 210 and the hash from the first signature 225 from the signed object. The server generates a second hash 310 using the data object and

compares the hash from the first signature 225 with the second hash 310. If the signatures match, the signature is valid. The server returns an indicator 320 showing the status of the signature, either valid or invalid.”)

9. **As per claims 3-4,6-10, 13, 16-17,19-23 and 26-27 the combination of Bowe and spain discloses an information processing method as applied to claims above. Furthermore Bowe discloses the method, further comprising: said first signature and said second signature are not identical, generating second hash data from said first digital signature; confirming if said authority to give said first user first user said permission to read specific data is granted by said second user by comparing the generated second hash data with hash data, which is registered in said data storage unit so as to correspond to said specific data; and executing a processing for enabling said first user to read said specific data. [See at least paragraph 0036] (On paragraph 0036, Bowe discloses the following . “Subsequently, upon a request from the client, the server authenticates the signed object by deriving the original data object and the signature from information obtained from the signed object sent by the client. The server then generates a comparison value by hashing the original data object to produce a second hash, and comparing the hash value in the signature to the second hash. The server also checks the hash value in the signature using the user's public key. If the document is authenticated, the server notifies the client that the authentication was successful.” Furthermore, Spain on the abstract discloses the following. “A digital signature generator is included to create a digital signature of the hardware address of the hardware element. A memory element stores the digital signature of the hardware element. A software program is included to compare the digital signature of the hardware element to a known value. If the digital signature of the hardware element matches the known value, the user may be granted read and write access to all memory locations within the memory element, including a location in which the hardware address is stored.”)**

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.(PTO-Form 892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samson B Lemma whose telephone number is 571-272-3806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am---4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BARRON JR GILBERTO can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-873-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SAMSON LEMMA
S.L.
09/15/2007


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